

REMARKS

Claims 1-29 are all the claims pending in the application, with claims 4-29 being withdrawn from consideration as a result of the Examiner's Restriction Requirement.

The Examiner rejects claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over CN1034084A (the "CN '084") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,019,926 to Van Thuijl et al. (the "US '926") both of which were submitted with Applicant's IDS filed March 24, 2005. The Examiner indicates that claim 3 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of its base claim 1.

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's prior art rejection as follows.

An embodiment of Applicant's invention as recited in independent claim 1 provides a head drum assembly comprising a unique combination of features including, *inter alia*, a drum cover formed of a conductive material and press-fitted on a shaft, and a connecting member disposed on the conductive body of the drum cover for supporting and electrically connecting a sub circuit board with the conductive body.

The Examiner acknowledges that CN '084 (the Examiner's primary reference) does not disclose at least the above-noted features as recited in Applicant's claim 1 (see Office Action, page 3).¹ The Examiner relies on US '926 to supply these acknowledged deficiencies of CN '084 (see Id.).

US '926 is in the field of magnetic-head units and discloses a magnetic-head unit 1 which includes the following components arranged as illustrated in Fig. 1 thereof:

¹ Applicant notes that on page 3, in paragraph 2, of the Office Action the Examiner erroneously refers to "Joannes" (US '926). This is clearly a typographical error, otherwise the Examiner's analysis of "Joannes" that follows in the next paragraph of the Office Action is self-contradictory.

The transformer section 10 is fixedly connected to a bridge construction 11, which is situated partly above the upper drum and which extends downwardly from the upper side of the drum system adjacent this system and which is connected to the lower drum 3 by bolt means near the lower part of the drum system. The bridge construction carries an earthing spring 12, which near its free end is connected to a pressure member 13 and presses this member against the bearing plate 7. In this way the pressure member 13 exerts pressure on the plate 7, thereby earthing the upper drum 4. The bridge construction 11 carries a shielding plate 14 which in conjunction with an upper plate 15 constitutes a shielding cover which accommodates an amplifier arrangement comprising an amplifier board 16 provided with electronic components. In a manner not shown the amplifier board is connected to the windings 9 of the transformer section 10. For the invention it is important that the amplifier board 16 is situated at a comparatively small distance from the transformer section 10; in fact, only the earthing spring 12 is arranged between the shielding plate 14 and the transformer section 10. The plate 14 may be provided with an electrically conductive layer, enabling the amplifier board 16 to be integrated with the plate 14. (US '926, col. 3, lines 19-46.)

Contrary to the Examiner's analysis, earthing spring 12 of US '926 is not provided on the conductive body of either the shielding plate 14, or the upper plate 15, of magnetic-head unit 1. Instead, as clearly illustrated in Fig. 1 of US '926, "bridge construction [11] carries an earthing spring 12" (see Id.). While US '926 discloses that "plate 14 may be provided with an electrically conductive layer, enabling the amplifier board 16 to be integrated with the plate 14" (see Id.), nowhere does US '926 disclose, teach, or even remotely suggest, that its earthing spring 12 is to be provided on the body of plate 14 (or plate 15), let alone teach or suggest that earthing spring 12 is to be provided for supporting a sub circuit board (for example, amplifier board 16).

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Accordingly, Applicant's independent claim 1 and its dependent claim 2 (which incorporates all the features of its base claim 1) would not have been obvious from any reasonable combination of CN '084 and US '926 at least for these reasons.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-16 are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. In particular, as noted in Applicant's Response to Restriction Requirement, filed September 28, 2005, claims 4-16 all depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1; therefore, claims 4-16 should now be entitled to allowance at least by virtue of their dependence on claim 1.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 18-2220. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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